

Notice of Allowability	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	10/789,057	KITA, KOJI
	Examiner	Art Unit
	Negussie Worku	2625

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. This communication is responsive to 02/27/04.

2. The allowed claim(s) is/are 11-20.

3. Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a) All b) Some* c) None of the:

1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.

5. CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.

(a) including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 1) hereto or 2) to Paper No./Mail Date _____.

(b) including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of
 Paper No./Mail Date _____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).

6. DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- 1. Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2. Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3. Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
 Paper No./Mail Date See Attachment
- 4. Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
 of Biological Material
- 5. Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6. Interview Summary (PTO-413),
 Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- 7. Examiner's Amendment/Comment
- 8. Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
- 9. Other _____.

DETAILED ACTION

1. This is a reply to the application filed on 02/27/04 in which, claims 11-20 are pending. Claims 11, 18 and 20 are independent, and claims 12-17 and 19 are dependent. Originally filed claims 1-10 which are cancelled by a preliminary amendment filed on 02/27/04, has been entered.

Priority

2. Acknowledgment is made of applicant's claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d). Receipt is acknowledged of papers submitted under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d), which papers have been placed of record in the file.

Information Disclosure Statement

3. The information disclosure statement (IDS) submitted on 03/14/06 and 12/27/04 has been reviewed. The submission is in compliance with the provisions of 37 CFR 1.97. Accordingly, the examiner is considering the information disclosure statement.

Reason for Allowance

4. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: Claims 11-17 are allowed for the reason the prior art searched and of record neither anticipates nor suggests an image processing method for recovering reading faults from digitized image data of an input image read from an image recording medium, the faults being due to imperfections present on the image recording medium, said method comprising

the steps of: detecting defective pixels influenced by said imperfections; performing an interpolating process for said defective pixels to create corrected pixel values for said defective pixels; calculating standard deviations of pixel values forming the image data, and determining granularity of said input image based on said standard deviations; and adding a value obtained by multiplying said granularity by a random number to said corrected pixel values for each defective pixel.

Claims 18 and 19 are allowed for the reason the prior art searched and of record neither anticipates nor suggests a computer-readable medium comprising computer-executable instructions for recovering reading faults from digitized image data of an input image read from an image recording medium, the faults being due to imperfections present on the image recording medium, said computer-executable instructions for: detecting defective pixels influenced by said imperfections; performing an interpolating process for said defective pixels to create corrected pixel values for said defective pixels; calculating standard deviations of pixel values forming the image data, and determining granularity of said input image based on said standard deviations; and adding a value obtained by multiplying said granularity by a random number to said corrected pixel values for each defective pixel.

Claim 20 is allowed for the reason the prior art searched and of record neither anticipates nor suggests an image processing apparatus for recovering reading faults produced in time of scanning photographic film due to imperfections present on

the film, said apparatus comprising: a defective pixel detecting unit for detecting defective pixels influenced by said imperfections; an interpolating unit for performing an interpolating process for said defective pixels to create corrected pixel values for said defective pixels; a standard deviation calculating unit for calculating standard deviations of pixel values forming image data, and determining granularity of an input image based on said standard deviations; and a graininess adding unit for adding a value obtained by multiplying said granularity by a random number to said corrected pixel values for each defective pixel.

Conclusion

5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Negussie Worku whose telephone number is 571-272-7472. The examiner can normally be reached on 9am-6pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Aung Moe can be reached on 571-272-7314. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic

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Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.



Negussie Worku
Examiner
Art Unit 2625



AUNG S. MOE
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
4/2/08